

The Umatilla National Forest encompasses about 1.4 million acres ranging in elevation from about 1,900 feet to over 7,000 feet in the Vinegar Hills Indian Rock Scenic Area in the southeastern corner of the Forest. Opportunities to observe birds are limitless, and with time and some patience you can have a very rewarding experience. To date there have been 214 species of birds observed on the Forest. The enclosed list is a record of birds observed on the Umatilla National Forest. Interstate I-84 roughly divides the Forest into two distinct areas; - the north half is generally wetter with deep incised valleys and is home for many bird species commonly associated with the Rocky Mountains. The south half is generally dryer with flat to rolling topography and is host to many species associated with the Great Basin.



Birds of the Umatilla National Forest

# Birds of the Umatilla National Forest



Boreal Owl - Merry Lynn Denny

Clockwise: Red Crossbill, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-backed Woodpecker, American Kestrel, and Mountain Bluebird.  
Photos by Dave Herr and Mike Denny



Large numbers of birds pass through the Forest during migration and are often found feeding in the high elevation meadows. Thousands of raptors also move south along the western slope of the northern Blue

Habitat is the key to the diversity of birds on the Forest. The Forest contains coniferous forests of Ponderosa pine, Grand fir, Douglas fir, Subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, Lodgepole pine, Western larch, and western-white pine. The lower elevations primarily consist of Ponderosa pine and Idaho fescue and blue bunch wheatgrass grasslands. Mild elevation habitats consist of mixed stands of Grand fir, Douglas fir, Lodge pole pine, and Western larch. Above 5,000 feet there are stands of subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and shallow meadows filled with delicate grasses and forbs. There are large wet meadow complexes filled with sedges, False hell-borne, Aspen and Cottonwoods. The creeks and streams on the Forest are lined with Rocky Mountain maple, alder, dogwood, and willows. Dry meadows also occur throughout the Forest consisting of sage, bunchgrass, and shrubs. Stands of Mountain mahogany, ceanothus, and Western juniper also occur on dryer sites. There are few small lakes and reservoirs greater than 5 acres. Vertical basalt rims above the Grande Ronde, John Day, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Rivers provide nesting opportunities for many species of birds. Habitats with large dead trees or snags are vital nesting and roosting sites for many species of birds across the Forest.

Mountains and many of the interior valleys starting in mid-August. Some good birding areas on the Forest include, Jubilee lake, Olive lake, Desolation Creek Meadow, Sky-line Drive (FSRD64), Upper Jones Canyon (FSRD 2104) Battle Mountain, Teal Springs Campground area, Summit Road (FSRD 31) Misery Mountain, and Table Rock to name a few. In early spring, many forest roads are closed due to snowdrifts or muddy conditions. Please limit your travel to drier roadways on the Forest. Check with local Forest offices in Pomeroy, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Ukiah, and Heppner for the status of road conditions. If you observe a bird species not on the list, please document and report your sighting with a photo or sketch and relevant notes including the date, time, location, name of observer (s) and a way to contact you. Send or report your sighting to the local Forest Office. Addresses and phone numbers are available on the back of this pamphlet.

## The Wildlife Watchers Code of Ethics

- Respect wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Respect other wildlife viewers and property.
- Respect the "wildness" of wildlife.

### Observe animals from a safe distance for us and for them:

- Use binoculars, spotting scopes and viewing blinds for a close look
- Move slowly and quietly.
- Avoid nests and dens. Leave baby birds and other animals where they are found.
- Learn to recognize and respect wildlife alarm signals.
- When an animal changes behavior as a result of our presence, we are too close.

### Allow wild animals to forage for their natural foods:

- Put safety and health of wildlife first by resisting the impulse to feed them.

### Always be considerate:

- Ask permission to watch or photograph wildlife on private land.
- Observe all rules and regulations.
- Wait your turn to view or photograph animals when sharing a viewing area.
- Leave pets at home or in the car.
- Tread lightly, staying on trails and roads.
- Pack garbage in. Pack garbage out. Do not litter, pack your garbage with you and dispose of it properly when you leave a natural area.

### Return a gift to nature; stay involved

- Consult with your local wildlife agency for specific guidelines on ethical wildlife watching, filming and photography.
- Participate in wildlife habitat conservation.
- Help others to become responsible wildlife watchers.



## Umatilla National Forest

Supervisor's Office  
72510 Coyote Road  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801  
(541) 278-3716  
[www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/)

**Heppner Ranger District**  
117 South Main Street  
Heppner, Oregon 97836  
(541) 676-9187

**North Fork John Day  
Ranger District**  
Highway 244  
Ukiah, Oregon 97880  
(541) 427-3231

**Pomeroy Ranger District**  
71 West Main Street  
Pomeroy, WA 99347  
(509) 843-1891

**Walla Walla  
Ranger District**  
1415 West Rose Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 522-6290

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Check List Key

Forest Status

M - Migratory; usually observed during migration.  
R – Resident, species present year round.  
B – Breeds on the Forest.

Seasonal Occurrence

Sp – Spring, March-June  
S – Summer, June-August  
F – Fall, August-November  
W – Winter, November-March

A – Abundant, observed every day.  
C – Common, observed in suitable habitat.  
O – Occasional, observed 2 – 3 times a season.

SPECIES	Forest Status	Seasonal Occurrence			
		Sp	S	F	W
Loons and Grebes					
___ Pacific Loon	M	R		R	
___ Common Loon	M	O	O	O	
___ Pied-billed Grebe	B	C	C	C	
___ Horned Grebe	B	O	O	O	
___ Red-necked Grebe	B		O	O	
___ Eared Grebe	M	O		O	
___ Western Grebe	M		O	O	
Cormorant					
___ Double-crested Cormorant	M		O	O	
Bittern and Herons					
___ American Bittern	M		R	R	
___ Great Blue Heron	B	O	C	C	R
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	M		R	R	
Geese and Swans					
___ Canada Goose	R,B	C	C	C	O
___ Trumpeter Swan	M	R		R	
___ Tundra Swan	M	O		O	O
Ducks					
___ Wood Duck	B	O	O	O	
___ Gadwall	B	O	O	O	
___ American Wigeon	M	O	R	O	
___ Mallard	R,B	C	C	C	O
___ Blue-winged Teal	M	O	O	O	
___ Cinnamon Teal	B	O	O	O	
___ Northern Shoveler	M	O	R	O	
___ Northern Pintail	M	O	R	O	R
___ Green-winged Teal	B	O	C	O	
___ Canvasback	M	O	R	O	
___ Redhead	M	R	R	O	
___ Ring-necked Duck	B	O	O	O	
___ Lesser Scaup	M	O	O	O	
___ Harlequin Duck	B		R		
___ Surf Scoter	M		R	R	
___ Bufflehead	M	R		R	
___ Common Goldeneye	B	O	R	O	
___ Barrow's Goldeneye	M	O	R	O	
___ Hooded Merganser	B	R	R	R	
___ Common Merganser	R,B	C	C	C	O
___ Ruddy Duck	M	O	R	O	R
Vultures, Hawks, and Eagles					
___ Turkey Vulture	B	O	O	O	
___ Osprey	B	C	C	C	
___ Bald Eagle	B,M	O		O	O
___ Northern Harrier	R,B	C	C	C	O
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	R,B	O	O	O	O
___ Cooper's Hawk	R,B	O	O	O	O
___ Northern Goshawk	R,B	O	O	O	O
___ Swainson's Hawk	M	R	R	R	
___ Red-tailed Hawk	R,B	C	C	C	C
___ Ferruginous Hawk	B	R	R	R	
___ Rough-legged Hawk	M	R		R	O
___ Golden Eagle	R,B	O	O	O	O
Falcons					
___ American Kestrel	R,B	C	C	C	O
___ Merlin	R,B	O	R	O	O
___ Peregrine Falcon	B	R	R	R	R
___ Prairie Falcon	R,B	O	O	O	R
Partridge, Grouse and Turkey					
___ Chukar	R,B	O	O	O	O
___ Gray Partridge	R,B	O	O	O	O
___ Ruffed Grouse	R,B	C	C	C	C
___ Blue Grouse	R,B	O	C	C	O
___ Wild Turkey	R,B	C	C	C	O
___ Mountain Quail	R,B	O	O	O	O
___ California Quail	R,B	C	C	O	O
Rails and Coot					
___ Virginia Rail	B	O	C	C	
___ Sora	B	O	O	O	
___ American Coot	B	O	C	C	
Crane					
___ Sandhill Crane	M	O	O	O	
Sandpipers and Phalarope					
___ Killdeer	B	C	C	C	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	M	R		O	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	B	C	C	C	
___ Long-billed Curlew	B	O	O	O	
___ Wilson's Snipe	B	O	O	O	
___ Wilson's Phalarope	M	O	O	O	
___ Red-necked Phalarope	M		O	O	

SPECIES		Forest Status	Seasonal Occurrence			
			Sp	S	F	W
Gulls						
___	Ring-billed Gull	M	O	O	O	
___	California Gull	M	O	O	O	
___	Herring Gull	M	O	R	O	
Pigeon and Doves						
___	Rock Dove	R,B	O	O	O	R
___	Band-tailed Pigeon	M	R		R	
___	Mourning Dove	B	C	C	C	O
Owls						
___	Barn Owl		B	R	R	R
___	Flammulated Owl		B	O	O	
___	Western Screech-Owl	R,B	C	C	C	O
___	Great Horned Owl	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Northern Hawk Owl	M				R
___	Northern Pygmy-Owl	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Barred Owl	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Great Grey Owl	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Long-eared Owl	B	O	O	O	O
___	Short-eared Owl	B	R	R	R	R
___	Boreal Owl	R,B	R	R	O	O
___	Northern Saw-whet Owl	R,B	C	C	C	C
Nighthawk and Nightjars						
___	Common Nighthawk	B	C	C	C	
___	Common Poorwill	B	O	O	O	
Swifts						
___	White-throated Swift	B	O	O	O	
___	Vaux's Swift	B	C	C	C	
Hummingbirds						
___	Black-chinned Hummingbird	B	O	O	O	
___	Calliope Hummingbird	B	C	C	C	
___	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	B	R	R	R	
___	Rufous Hummingbird	B	C	C	C	
Kingfisher						
___	Belted Kingfisher	B	C	C	C	
Woodpeckers						
___	Lewis's Woodpecker	B	O	O	O	
___	Williamson's Sapsucker	B	C	C	C	
___	Red-naped Sapsucker	B	C	C	C	
___	Red-breasted Sapsucker	M	R		R	
___	Downy Woodpecker	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Hairy Woodpecker	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	White-headed Woodpecker	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Three-toed Woodpecker	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Black-backed Woodpecker	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Northern Flicker	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Pileated Woodpecker	R,B	C	C	C	C
Flycatchers						
___	Olive-sided Flycatcher	B	O	O	O	
___	Western Wood-Pewee	B	A	A	A	
___	Willow Flycatcher	B	C	C	C	
___	Least Flycatcher	M			R	
___	Hammond's Flycatcher	B	C	C	C	
___	Gray Flycatcher	B	O	O	O	
___	Dusky Flycatcher	B	C	C	C	
___	Western Flycatcher	B	C	C	C	
___	Say's Phoebe	M	O		O	
___	Ash-throated Flycatcher	M	R	R	R	
___	Western Kingbird	B	O	O	O	
___	Eastern Kingbird	B	O	O	O	
Shrikes						
___	Loggerhead Shrike	B	O	O	O	
___	Northern Shrike	M	O			O
Vireos						
___	Cassin's Vireo	B	C	C	C	
___	Warbling Vireo	B	C	C	C	
___	Red-eyed Vireo	B	O	O	R	
Jays, Magpie, and Crow						
___	Gray Jay	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Steller's Jay	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Blue Jay	M			R	
___	Clark's Nutcracker	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Black-billed Magpie	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	American Crow	R,B	O	O	O	R
___	Common Raven	R,B	C	C	C	C
Lark						
___	Horned Lark	B	O	O	O	
Swallows						
___	Tree Swallow	B	C	C	C	
___	Violet-green Swallow	B	C	C	C	
___	Northern Rough-winged	B	O	O	O	
___	Bank Swallow	B	O	O	O	
___	Cliff Swallow	B	O	O	O	
___	Barn Swallow	B	O	O	O	
Chickadees						
___	Black-capped Chickadee	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Mountain Chickadee	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	R,B	C	C	C	C
Nuthatches and Creeper						
___	Red-breasted Nuthatch	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	White-breasted Nuthatch	R,B	O	O	O	O
___	Pygmy Nuthatch	R,B	C	C	C	C
___	Brown Creeper	R,B	C	C	C	C

SPECIES		Forest Status	Seasonal Occurrence			
			Sp	S	F	W
Wrens						
___	Rock Wren	B		O	O	O
___	Canyon Wren	B		O	O	O
___	Bewick's Wren	R,B		O	O	O
___	House Wren	B		C	C	C
___	Winter Wren	R,B		C	C	C
___	Marsh Wren	B		O	O	O
Dipper						
___	American Dipper	R,B		C	C	C
Kinglets						
___	Golden-crowned Kinglet	R,B		A	A	A
___	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	R,B		C	C	C
Bluebirds, Solitaire, and Thrush						
___	Western Bluebird	B		C	C	C
___	Mountain Bluebird	B		C	C	C
___	Townsend's Solitaire	R,B		C	C	C
___	Veery	B		O	O	O
___	Swainson's Thrush	B		C	C	C
___	Hermit Thrush	B		C	C	C
___	American Robin	R,B		C	C	C
___	Varied Thrush	R,B		C	C	C
Thrashers						
___	Gray Catbird	B		O	O	O
___	Sage Thrasher	M		O	R	O
Starling						
___	European Starling	R,B		O	O	O
Pipit						
___	American Pipit	M		O	R	O
Waxwings						
___	Bohemian Waxwing	M				O
___	Cedar Waxwing	B		O	C	C
Warblers						
___	Orange-crowned Warbler	B		C	C	C
___	Nashville Warbler	B		O	O	O
___	Yellow Warbler	B		O	O	O
___	Yellow-rumped Warbler	B		C	C	C
___	Townsend's Warbler	B		C	C	C
___	Hermit Warbler	M			R	R
___	American Redstart	M			R	
___	Northern Waterthrush	M			R	
___	MacGillivray's Warbler	B		C	C	C
___	Common Yellowthroat	B		O	O	O
___	Wilson's Warbler	B		C	C	C
___	Yellow-breasted Chat	B		O	O	O
Tanager						
___	Western Tanager	B		C	C	C
Gosbeaks and Bunting						
___	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M				O
___	Black-headed Grosbeak	B		C	C	C
___	Lazuli Bunting	B		C	C	C
Towhees						
___	Green-tailed Towhee	B		R	O	O
___	Spotted Towhee	B		C	C	C
Sparrows and Junco						
___	American Tree Sparrow	M				R
___	Chipping Sparrow	B		C	C	A
___	Brewer's Sparrow	B		O	O	O
___	Vesper Sparrow	B		O	O	O
___	Sage Sparrow	M		O		O
___	Savannah Sparrow	B		O	O	O
___	Grasshopper Sparrow	B		R	R	R
___	Fox Sparrow	B		C	C	C
___	Song Sparrow	B		C	C	C
___	Lincoln's Sparrow	B		C	C	C
___	White-crowned Sparrow	B		O	O	C
___	Golden-crowned Sparrow	M				R
___	Dark-eyed Junco	R,B		A	A	A
Blackbirds and Oriole						
___	Red-winged Blackbird	B		O	O	O
___	Western Meadowlark	B		O	O	O
___	Brewer's Blackbird	B		O	O	O
___	Brown-headed Cowbird	B		C	C	C
___	Bullock's Oriole	B		O	O	O
Finches						
___	Gray-crowned Rosy-finch	M			O	O
___	Pine Grosbeak	R,B		R	R	R
___	Purple Finch	M		R		R
___	Cassin's Finch	R,B		C	C	C
___	House Finch	B		C	C	O
___	Red Crossbill	R,B		C	C	C
___	White-winged Crossbill	B		R	R	R
___	Common Redpoll	M		R		R
___	Pine Siskin	R,B		C	C	C
___	American Goldfinch	B		C	C	C
___	Evening Grosbeak	R,B		C	C	C

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song."

~Chinese Proverb

